

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system, comprising:
a directing element that directs an inputted optical signal;
a first diffractive optical element;
a second diffractive optical element positioned at an angle with respect to the first diffractive optical element, wherein the first and second diffractive optical elements are configured to means-for-repeatedly transmitting and diffracting the directed optical signal into multiple channels of distinct wavelengths; and
a reflector that receives the multiple channels from the second diffractive optical element~~means for repeatedly transmitting and diffracting~~ and reflects the multiple channels back toward the second diffractive optical element~~means for repeatedly transmitting and diffracting~~.
2. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, wherein the multiple channels that are reflected by the reflector are transmitted through the first and second diffractive optical elements~~means for repeatedly transmitting and diffracting~~.
3. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, wherein the multiple channels are transmitted through the first and second diffractive optical elements~~means for repeatedly transmitting and diffracting~~ at least two times.
4. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, wherein the directing element includes a bi-convex lens.

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

5. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, wherein the reflector is chosen from the group consisting of mirrors and retroprisms.

6. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the first diffractive optical element means for repeatedly transmitting and diffracting~~ is angled with respect to directing element and ~~the second diffractive optical element is angled with respect to~~ the reflector.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 71, wherein the first and second diffractive optical elements comprise binary transmission gratings.

9. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 71, wherein the second diffractive optical element is attached to the reflector.

10. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, further comprising a waveguide array that includes at least one input waveguide that directs the inputted optical signal toward the directing element, the waveguide array further including at least two outlet waveguides that are positioned to receive the multiple channels from the means for repeatedly transmitting and diffracting.

11. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 1, wherein the system is capable of multiplexing multiple channels into a combined an optical signal.

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

12. (Currently Amended) ~~In an optical device,~~ a diffractive optics system, comprising:
- a waveguide array including an input fiber that directs an optical signal into the diffractive optics system;
 - a directing element that directs the optical signal;
 - a first diffractive optical element ("DOE") positioned to perform a first diffraction of the optical signal;
 - a second DOE positioned in an angled configuration with respect to the first DOE to perform a second diffraction of the optical signal; and
 - a reflector positioned to reflect the twice-diffracted optical signal back toward the second DOE.
13. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein the twice-diffracted optical signal is reflected by the reflector such that it passes through the first and second DOEs.
14. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein at least a portion of the waveguide array is positioned proximate a focal plane of the directing element.
15. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein the first and second DOEs comprise transmission diffraction gratings, and wherein the optical signal is transmitted through the first and second DOEs during the first and second diffractions.
16. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 15, wherein the first and second DOEs are selected from the group consisting of binary diffraction gratings, holographic diffraction gratings, surface-relief diffraction gratings, and computer-generated holograms.

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

17. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, further including a polarization dependent loss prevention assembly interposed between the directing element and the first DOE.

18. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 17, wherein the polarization dependent loss prevention assembly comprises a birefringent element and a $\frac{1}{2}$ -wave plate.

19. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein the directing element, first DOE, second DOE, and reflector are positioned in a folded arrangement such that they are angled with respect to one another.

20. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein the optical device is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a wavelength division multiplexing/demultiplexing device, ~~an add/drop multiplexer, and a spectrum analyzer.~~

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

21. (Original) A method of demultiplexing an optical signal, comprising:
directing a multiplexed optical signal along a predetermined path;
performing a first diffraction of the multiplexed optical signal to separate the multiplexed optical signal into a plurality of channels having distinct wavelengths;
performing a second diffraction to further disperse the plurality of channels;
reflecting the plurality of channels after the second diffraction; and
outputting the plurality of channels to a plurality of waveguides
22. (Original) A method of demultiplexing as defined in claim 21, wherein the first and second diffractions are respectively performed by a first transmissive diffraction grating and a second transmissive diffraction grating.
23. (Original) A method of demultiplexing as defined in claim 22, further comprising:
after reflecting the plurality of channels, transmitting the plurality of channels through the first and second DOEs.
24. (Original) A method of demultiplexing as defined in claim 21, wherein outputting the plurality of channels further comprises:
outputting the plurality of channels into discrete fiber optic waveguides positioned in a waveguide array.

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

25. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system capable of multiplexing and demultiplexing optical signals, comprising:

a waveguide array including a plurality of fiber optic waveguides ~~capable of for~~ carrying wavelength distinct optical signals;

a lens assembly for directing optical signals;

a first transmissive diffraction grating positioned in series with the lens assembly;

a second transmissive diffraction grating positioned in series with the first transmissive diffraction grating; ~~and~~

a reflector positioned in series with the second transmissive diffraction grating, the reflector enabling optical signals that have passed through the first and second transmissive diffraction gratings to be re-transmitted through the first and second transmissive diffraction gratings; ~~and~~

a single fiber optic waveguide for carrying a multiplexed optical signal.

26. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 25, wherein the first and second diffraction gratings comprise binary transmissive diffraction gratings.

27. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 26, wherein the first and second transmissive diffraction gratings are angled with respect to one another.

28. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 27, wherein the lens assembly and the reflector are angled with respect to the first and second transmissive diffraction gratings.

29. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim ~~28~~ 25, wherein passage of an inputted multiplexed optical signal from the single fiber optic wave guide and through the system demultiplexes the multiplexed optical signal into a plurality of wavelength-distinct channels that are received by the waveguide array.

Application No. 10/691,466
Amendment "A" dated June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 3, 2005

30. (Currently Amended) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim ~~28~~ 25, wherein passage of a variety of wavelength-distinct optical signal channels from the waveguide array and through the system combines the optical signal channels into a multiplexed optical signal that is received by the single fiber optic waveguide.

31. (Original) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 28, wherein the lens assembly, the first and second transmissive diffraction gratings, and the reflector are positioned in a telecentric mode.

32. (New) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein the optical device is an add/drop multiplexer.

33. (New) A diffractive optics system as defined in claim 12, wherein the optical device is a spectrum analyzer.